

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Water conditions are improving as is the steelhead catch. 18 bank anglers kept 5 hatchery winter run steelhead. 4 boat anglers kept 1 hatchery winter run steelhead. Fish were caught throughout the river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 37 coho adults, three jacks, 54 winter run steelhead and two cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 29 coho adults, one jack, 29 winter-run steelhead adults and two cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. They also released six coho adults, two coho jacks and seven winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa at Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,600 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 1. Water visibility is two feet.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Light effort and no steelhead catch was observed.

Though still early, late hatchery winter run steelhead returns to Washington lower Columbia hatcheries are off to a little slower start in 2016 when compared to the same time last year.

<u>River</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cowlitz	47	55
Kalama	119	189
Lewis	10	20

Sturgeon

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per every 7 rods last week. Slow for legal size fish from the bank.

Through February 7, sturgeon may be retained seven days per week. The daily limit is 1 fish, min. size 38" fork length and max. size 54" fork length. Effective February 8 until further notice, catch-and-release only. Depending on the remaining allocation of the 325 fish guideline, a 1-2 day retention fishery is possible in mid-June.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching a few legal; slow fishing from the bank.

Staff is closely tracking catch in The Dalles Pool. Assuming the current rate of retention continues, a closure date for retention may be announced by mid-February.

John Day Pool – Slow for legal size fish as none were found in the sample.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed for either species.

The Dalles Pool – Fishing for walleye was very good with boat anglers averaging 3.5 fish kept/released per rod. The couple bank anglers sampled also did well for walleye but no bass were caught.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly a walleye per every 2.5 rods. No effort was observed for bass.

Trout

Recent plants of catchable size and brood stock rainbows. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery
• KRESS LK (COWL)					
Jan 20, 2016	Rainbow		2,000	2.36	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• LK SACAJAWEA (COWL)					
Jan 20, 2016	Rainbow		28	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 20, 2016	Rainbow		72	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 20, 2016	Rainbow		2,500	2.36	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• ROWLAND LK (KLIC)					
Jan 26, 2016	Rainbow		50	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 22, 2016	Rainbow		36	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• SILVER LK (COWL)					
Jan 20, 2016	Rainbow		3,000	2.36	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• SPEARFISH LK (KLIC)					
Jan 27, 2016	Rainbow		43	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 27, 2016	Rainbow		1,476	2.36	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 26, 2016	Rainbow		60	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Jan 21, 2016	Rainbow		30	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY

Smelt

Good numbers of smelt were reported caught in the commercial fishery near Longview today. Prospects look good for the Cowlitz sport fishery this Saturday.

Cowlitz River - Smelt fishing with dip nets from the riverbank will be allowed ONLY from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday February 6. Each dip-netter may retain 10 pounds of smelt (about ¼ of a five-gallon bucket) per day with no more than one day's limit in possession. No dipping is allowed from boats.

Flows at Castle Rock are 19,500 cfs today, nearly twice the long-term mean of 10,700 cfs.

All other waters in the state of Washington remain closed to fishing for eulachon (Columbia River smelt).

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	11	13	5	51						80	24.6%	Jan. 24	325
The Dalles													100
John Day													500
¹ Due to the short season in Bonneville Pool, we will be providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.													
Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.													
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb	Mar	Apr	May				
Bonneville	4	4	2	27	14					51		Jan. 31	
The Dalles	11	4	2	7	2					26		Jan. 31	
John Day	5	3	1	1	0					10		Jan. 31	
Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.													

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 25 - 31, 2016

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool	44	14					42	98	265	3	14	3	51	51	
The Dalles Pool	21	1				1	9	24	21		2		25	26	
John Day Pool	18						12	31	8			2	10	10	
Total	83	15				1	63	153	294	3	16	5	86	87	
Salmonids	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept		Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool							1	2		2					
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead										2					
The Dalles Pool	1						2	4					7	7	
Chinook															
Coho													7	7	
Steelhead															
John Day Pool	4						1	2					1	1	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead													1	1	
Walleye	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool	2	2	6			6	10	25	5	82			82	88	
John Day Pool							16	35	3	11			23	23	
Bass	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool	5														
John Day Pool															

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	131%	500%	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.11	1.00	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.10	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	91%	89%	422%	500%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.53	none	3.52	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	3.26	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	87%	56%	184%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.20	none	0.40	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	0.31	none